

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Library

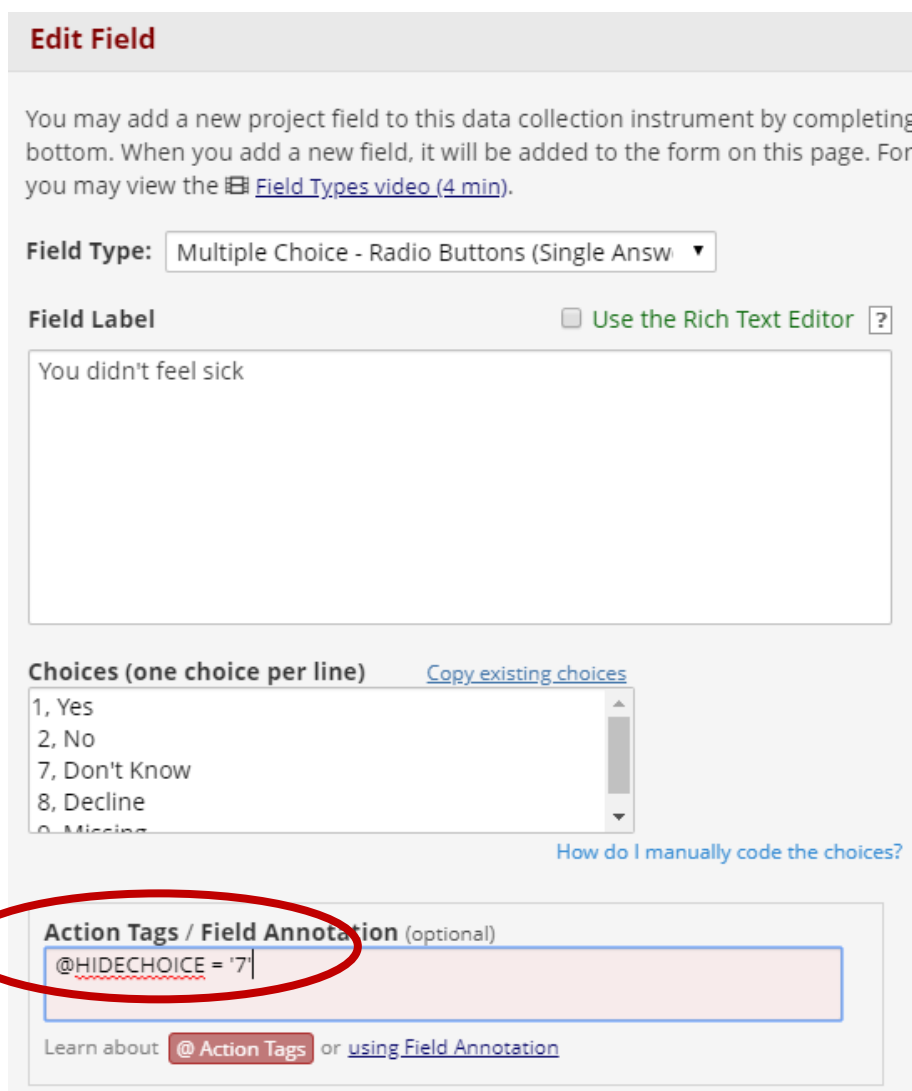
Can I change the codes in a multiple-choice question?

I started collecting study data, but I need to change the response.

You should **not** change the codes of multiple-choice questions once you start collecting study data because this may result in data loss.

As an alternative, you can add new choices. If some of the choices are no longer relevant, you can hide the choice by using the action tag `@HIDECHOICE = 'x'`, replacing `x` with the code of the choice you want to hide. See also [FAQ: Action Tags](#).

Example:

A screenshot of the REDCap 'Edit Field' interface. The title is 'Edit Field'. Below the title is a paragraph of text: 'You may add a new project field to this data collection instrument by completing bottom. When you add a new field, it will be added to the form on this page. For you may view the [Field Types video \(4 min\)](#).' Below this is a 'Field Type' dropdown menu set to 'Multiple Choice - Radio Buttons (Single Answer)'. Underneath is a 'Field Label' section with a text area containing 'You didn't feel sick' and a checkbox for 'Use the Rich Text Editor'. Below the label is a 'Choices (one choice per line)' section with a list of choices: '1, Yes', '2, No', '7, Don't Know', '8, Decline', and '9, Missing'. A link 'Copy existing choices' is next to the list. Below the choices is a link 'How do I manually code the choices?'. At the bottom is an 'Action Tags / Field Annotation (optional)' section with a text area containing '@HIDECHOICE = '7'', which is circled in red. Below this is a link 'Learn about @ Action Tags or using Field Annotation'.